I. AMENDMENTS

Please amend the subject application as filed:

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1 to 60, without prejudice or disclaimer and add new claims 61 to 78 as follows:

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61. (New) An isolated or purified polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2.

62. (New) A fragment of the polypeptide of claim 61, comprising amino acid 24 to amino acid 208 of SEQ ID NO:2.

63. (New) A fragment of the polypeptide of claim 61, comprising amino acid 41 to amino acid 208 of SEQ ID NO:2.

64. (New) A fragment of the polypeptide of claim 61, comprising amino acid 111 to amino acid 180 of SEQ ID NO:2.

65. (New) A fragment of the polypeptide of claim 61, comprising amino acid 35 to amino acid 208 of SEQ ID NO:2.

66. (New) A fragment of the polypeptide of claim 61, comprising amino acid 1 to amino acid 117 of SEQ ID NO:2.

67. (New) A fragment of the polypeptide of claim 61, comprising amino acid 61 to amino acid 208 of SEQ ID NO:2.

68. (New) A fragment of the polypeptide of claim 61, comprising amino acid 80 to amino acid 208 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

69. (New) An isolated or purified polypeptide, comprising an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2 and having asparagine at amino acid 121.

70. (New) A fragment of the polypeptide of claim 61, wherein the fragment consists of at least the C-terminal portion of the polypeptide and wherein the fragment binds to the cytoplasmic domain of a Fas receptor.

71. (New) A fragment of the polypeptide of claim 61, wherein the fragment consists of at least the N-terminal portion of the polypeptide and wherein the fragment induces apoptosis in a suitable cell.

72. (New) A composition comprising a polypeptide of any of claims 61 to 71 and a carrier.

73. (New) The composition of claim 72, wherein the carrier is selected from the group consisting of an adjuvant, a solid support, a stabilizer, a preservative and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

74. (New) A fragment of the polypeptide of claim 61 that binds to the cytoplasmic domain of the Fas receptor.

75. (New) A fragment of the polypeptide of claim 61 that induces apoptosis in a suitable cell.

76. (New) An isolated polypeptide of any of claims 61, 74 or 75, which has been recombinantly produced and isolated from a cell.

77. (New) A process for chemically synthesizing a polypeptide, which comprises providing the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of any claims 61, 74 or 75, and chemically linking the amino acids in an orientation and under suitable conditions so as to produce the polypeptide.

78. (New) A method of screening for an agent that inhibits the binding of a polypeptide of any of claims 61 or 74, to a Fas receptor, the method comprising:

a) providing a Fas receptor cytoplasmic domain bound to a solid support;

b) contacting the agent to be tested with the solid support of step a) under conditions favoring binding of said cytoplasmic domain to said polypeptide;

c) contacting the polypeptide that has been detectable-labeled to the solid support of step b) under conditions favoring binding of the cytoplasmic domain to the polypeptide;

d) detecting the presence of complex formation between the cytoplasmic domain and the polypeptide; the absence of complex formation indicating that the agent inhibits the binding of the polypeptide to the cytoplasmic domain of the Fas receptor.